



News Release

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Department of Health Launches Flu Vaccine Web Sites for the 2005-06 Influenza Season

(Salt Lake City, UT) – A new online tool, the **Flu Vaccine Locator**, is making it easier for Utahns to find out where they can get the flu vaccine this season. Developed by the Utah Department of Health (UDOH), this online tool allows Utahns to search statewide for vaccine clinics by selecting the county and dates most convenient for them.

The Flu Vaccine Locator can be found online at the Utah Immunization Program Web site at www.immunize-utah.org and then by clicking on Flu Vaccine Locator link.

Information in the Flu Vaccine Locator will be updated periodically as new information is provided.

“This tool will be helpful, especially since influenza vaccine availability changes so quickly,” said Linda Abel, Immunization Program Manager, UDOH. In addition to clinic locations, the Flu Vaccine Locator provides helpful information, such as vaccine costs, types of insurance accepted, such as Medicare or private insurances, ages served, and what other vaccines are available.

Another online resource is available for consumers and health care providers during the influenza season – the **UDOH Influenza page**. Updates on influenza-related statistics, vaccine recommendations and disease facts are available by visiting the UDOH Influenza page at <http://health.utah.gov/flu>. Information on the number of influenza-related hospitalizations, area school absenteeism rates and physician office reported influenza-like illness in Utah will be posted regularly.

The flu vaccine is now available for the general public, regardless of risk status. However, due to the timing of vaccine distribution, vaccine supplies may be limited for brief periods of time.

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While all individuals may now receive the vaccine, the UDOH, in accordance with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), strongly encourages people in the following groups to get the flu vaccine:

- All children aged 6-23 months*
- Adults aged 65 years and older
- Persons aged 2-64 years with underlying chronic medical conditions
- All women who will be pregnant during influenza season
- Residents of nursing homes and long-term care facilities
- Children 6 months-18 years of age on chronic aspirin therapy
- Health-care workers with direct patient care
- Out-of-home caregivers and household contacts of children aged <6 months
- Healthy persons ages 50-64 years of age

*Flu vaccine is a covered vaccine for children birth through 18 years who are eligible for the Vaccines for Children (VFC) Program.

Providers are encouraged to vaccinate healthy persons who are aged 5–49 years and are not pregnant— including health-care workers (except those who care for severely immunocompromised patients in special care units) and persons caring for children aged <6 months— with the FluMist, or intranasally administered, live, attenuated influenza vaccine.

For more information about the flu vaccine, contact your healthcare provider, or visit a public health clinic. You can also visit the Flu Vaccine Locator Web site, or call the Immunization Hotline at 1-800-275-0659.

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The mission of the Utah Department of Health is to protect the public's health through preventing avoidable illness, injury, disability and premature death, assuring access to affordable, quality health care, and promoting healthy lifestyles.